

## Finders of the Lost Ark (1 Samuel 4:15-22)

Proposition:

### **I. The Representation of the God's Glory**

- A. His Presence is Represented by the Ark (Exodus 25:21-22)
- B. His Preeminence is Represented by the Ark (Numbers 10:33)
- C. His Power is Represented by the Ark (Joshua 3:13, 6:4)
- D. His Plan is Represented by the Ark (Leviticus 16:14)

### **II. The Robbery of God's Glory (1 Samuel 4:1-22)**

- A. Robbed by the Stealing of the Priests (1 Samuel 2:12-17)
- B. Robbed by the Silence of the Parents (1 Samuel 3:12-14)
- C. Robbed by the Substitution of the People (1 Samuel 4:1-3,11)

### **III. The Recovery of God's Glory (2 Samuel 6:12-18)**

- A. The Path of Recovery (Vs. 12-13)
- B. The Praise of Recovery (Vs. 14-16)
- C. The Place of Recovery (Vs. 17-18)

Finders of the Lost Ark (1 Samuel 4:15-22)  
Amidst this most heart-breaking of scenes in the history of Israel, the most prominent piece of tabernacle worship was stolen. Lost in a battle w/ the enemies of God. At the moment the news came the expectant daughter in law of the high priest went into labor and gave a son. But the joys of a new child, could not withstand the tragedy of the nation's loss. Notice her words in v5 & 6. This statement was no accident, but gives us insight into the representation, the robbery and the recovery of God's Glory. In this statement we see a link between the glory of God and the Ark of the Covenant. When I was a kid, I was fascinated by the story of the archeologist that went on adventures to find the Ark. Many evenings you would find me in the wood w/ my best cowboy hat, my toy pistol and the bull whip I got at the flea market pretending to find the Lost Ark. For just a few moments tonight I want you to grab your dusty fedora and your bull whip and come w/ me to find the Lost Glory of God. Because truth be

I. The Representation of God's Glory  
Like all of the articles of furniture in the tabernacle, the Ark of the Covenant was a representation of the Glory of God.

Contained in this box structure was a shadow

A. His Presence is Represented by the Ark - Exodus 25:17-22 In his instructions for creating the ark, God states that I will meet, I will communicate with you there. God is making a way to dwell among his people. Today as well, God has made a way to dwell among his people not by a

B. His Preeminence is Represented by the Ark Numbers 10:33. Heavily find here that in their wilderness wanderings, the place of Preeminence and leadership out front was the ark of the covenant! God was in direct command of his people, Exo 8:14. When God is in a place of Preeminence

C. His Power is Represented by the Ark - Joshua 3:13; 6:4 When the presence of God is experienced and the preeminences of God is permitted, one can not help but see God manifest his power. The power of God was seen as the soul of the foot of priest touched the water, when the walls

D. His Plan is Represented by the Ark Lev. 16:14 describes the old covenant procedure for for dealing w/ sin. A Holy God above the mercy seat. A broken law below the mercy seat. The only thing that stood between was the blood of the innocent. You want to see the glory

II. The Reckoning of God's Glory -

Back to our opening text. The burning question on each of our hearts is how. How does a people go from knowing God's

- 1) ...truth be known we may wear smiles, suits and skirts but the Glory of God has disappeared from our lives. We may have filled pews and bulging coffers, but in many of our churches the Glory has departed. If this is the case in your life or in the life of you church, I believe that if we will trace the path of this Ark of the Covenant through the scriptures we will find three critical principals that clear a path for restoring the Glory of God.
- 2) ...was a shadow, a tracing of the purity, holiness, beauty, power, justice, and mercy of God's character.
- 3) Exodus 25:21-22 And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee. And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.
- 4) ...not by a golden box but by a wooden cross. By the means of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, God, by his Spirit dwells among and within his people!
- 5) Numbers 10:33 And they departed from the mount of the LORD three days' journey: and the ark of the covenant of the LORD went before them in the three days' journey, to search out a resting place for them.
- 6) Rom8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.
- 7) ...of preeminence life's actions and avenues are not dictated by the whims of the flesh but by the Spirit and the Word of God!
- 8) **Joshua 3:13** And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests that bear the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of Jordan, that the waters of Jordan shall be cut off from the waters that come down from above; and they shall stand upon an heap. **Joshua 6:4** And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets.
- 9) ...the walls of Jericho came crashing down! That same power is manifested in the life of the child of God: John 1:12 But as many as... Rom. 1:16 I am not ashamed of the gospel...Colossians 1:11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power...2 Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the..
- 10) Leviticus 16:14 And he shall take of the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it with his finger upon the mercy seat eastward; and before the mercy seat shall he sprinkle of the blood with his finger seven times.
- 11) ...the glory of God, review the sinful violations and rebellion against God's law of your life, heat the threatenings of eternal punishment for sin in the book of God, but in between, the blood of the innocent. Not a calf or goat, but of God's own son! Glory!

- 1) ...robbed by the enemies of God. The time of the judges that we find ourselves in was a time characterized by the statement "every man did what was right in his own eyes. That produced a spiritual roller coaster that eventually flat-lined and that brings us to 1 Samuel.
- 2) ...of the gospel better watch when we begin to believe that what we preach and what God says applies to everyone but us. When in our own vain pride we climb an ecclesiastical latter of success, withholding from God the glory that is due Him and not us.
- 3) ...are a mess because we seem to be trying to win a popularity contest instead of being shepherds.
- 4) ...our idol and not the God above our buildings, the God that gives our reputation and the God of our convictions then we too will find that the Glory hath departed.

Presence and Power, to having it Robbed by an ①

A. Robbed by the Stealing of the Priests

Hophni and Phinehas had become so far they had "thrown off the restraints" of their religion. The sacrifices that were many

to God were pilfered through for its best pieces for the Sons of Eli. In their pride and arrogance what they wanted and give the left overs to God. We as ministers of the gospel

B. Robbed by the Silence of the Parents -

This judgment of Hophni and Phinehas was the result of the enditement that in their high priest father neglected to do.

He could not confront his children. We

are losing a generation of youth because we want to be their friends -

stead of their parents. Our churches are amiss

C. Robbed by the Substitution of the People

"It may help us?" what is going on. In our last point miracles were worked at the presence of the ark! These people were treating the ark like a lucky rabbit's foot. "I'll put the ark out there and nothing can stop us." It is idolatry! When our kids

map and/or reputations and convictions become

III. The Recovery of God's Glory -

Thank God that's not the end of the story. Praise God there is a Recovery possible for God's glory in our lives.

There was a king that wanted the glory back.

A. The Path of Recovery - ch 1-2 in ch 6 David turned and went to where the ark was. "Repentance". Then there was a failed attempt to bring it back. Not God's way. There are a lot of folks trying to conjure the glory of the wrong way. v5 13. every six paces to recovering the Glory of God something died. clif the day will return the boxen at our self until the falling.

B. The Praise of Recovery - David danced before the Lord. Not in a fit of order, he simply leaped before the Lord w/ joy! He gave God the praise that is due his name. When you begin to put Christ in his proper place, the joy in God the thrill of the Gospel will be evident, done heard it so many time, about a heritage of a short

C. The Place of Recovery And set it in "His Place" not the world. His place. Not our place, but his place. The place out in front, the place of promises. Would to God that we would once again fall in behind our Lord and Savior. That he would reign in supreme upon the throne of our heart that he purchased with <sup>his blood</sup>.

IV. Close - While studying for this message I got a hit on eBay "the Ark" for 1000. He said I found it in all the stuff in closest, has the gloss of God like a <sup>heat</sup> heat.

- 1) ...the fatling of our pride, the yearling of our self ability is going to have to die. 1 Corinthians 15:31 ...I die daily. Galatians 2:20 I am crucified... Romans 12:1 ...present your bodies a living sacrifice...
- 2) ...heritage of a shouting grandma or grand pa. We what to shout and cry and rejoice like they did. The problem is that none of us wants to live the daily walk with the Lord that they did. I saw a sign for the UTC Mocks football team. Underneath were the words "restore the glory" Two vary different kinds of glory. Many in our churches want a football glory, where we can shout and cry and cheer, and then go home unchanged. But the genuine glory of God is found in that daily walk of sacrifice, placing him in the forfront.